

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Introduction

The main purpose of Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is to examine and interpret the environment from a variety of perspectives - physical, geographical, biological, sociological, economic, political, technological, historical, aesthetic, ethical and spiritual. Environmental Education and ESD are cross curricular and opportunities are provided for learning about, in, through, and for the environment.

- Education about the environment - to develop a sound base of knowledge, understanding and skills that children will need to make sense of environmental issues.
- To provide education in the environment - to give children first hand experience of various local environments.
- To provide stimulus for learning a wide range of skills through secondary sources - education through the environment.
- Education for the environment focuses on sustainable solutions to environmental problems, taking into account, that there are conflicting interests and different perspectives.

Aims and Objectives

It is important for the Iona school and Nursery community to have an awareness and understanding of the effects of their actions upon the environment in which they live, work and relax. In order to do this, we need to take responsibility for our own actions and we need to have a sense of duty and care for the world in which we live.

We encourage both staff and pupils to think about their environment and how their actions impact upon the national and global picture. To this end we encourage and reinforce environmental education in all aspects of everyday life and the wider community.

The ways in which we will strive towards this goal is to **reduce** the amount of materials we use and waste we produce, **recycle** and **re-use** materials wherever possible, **restore** what is deemed to have been destroyed and **respect** our neighbours and our environment.

Reduce

Energy

- We will switch off lights when they are not in use.
- We will keep outside doors shut in cold weather.
- We will make sure we turn off taps when they are no longer needed.

Paper

We will reduce the amount of paper we use in our classrooms and offices by:-

- Writing and printing on both side of the paper whenever possible.
- Filing photocopies for use at a later date.
- Not printing emails
- Using text messaging service where possible to inform parents.

Transport

- We will continue to encourage children to walk to school
- We will encourage staff to share transport when going on courses etc.
- we encourage staff to walk/bus/cycle to work by limiting parking spaces
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Re-use

- All fruit waste from the children's snack is put into school compost bins
- all kitchen food/veg waste is composted
- The land has a compost toilet, the children understand how this works.

Gardening

- Gardening waste will be put into the school compost bins.

Donated materials including containers

- We will try to find uses for donated materials. This may be to help with storage or for use in art.
- Where uses cannot be found, we will endeavour to recycle it.

Paper

- Paper will be re-used within the classroom. Each class will have a box of partially used paper that can be used again.
- All paper that is non confidential is recycled
- Display paper will be taken down carefully and re-used wherever possible.
- Paper will be used on both sides wherever possible.

Recycle

At Iona Primary School and Nursery, we recycle a range of materials:

- Paper is collected in recycling bins in every class room and all office areas.
- Printer cartridges are sent on to the dogs trust for recycling
- we collect and recycle mobile phones

Restore

- School habitats such as the pond, hedgerows etc are used by the children to study flora and fauna and their habitat. Children will be encouraged to return all living creatures to their original habitat.
- Areas disturbed by sport, by accident, or by malicious damage will, if possible, be restored to its original condition.
- Children will be encouraged to treat all school equipment with respect. Books and other equipment will be repaired wherever possible.
- The land is a large eco system where children can freely play and learn about their environment.

Respect

- Our first and most important school rule is that we will respect one another. This rule will permeate all we do whether it is discussing global issues, welcoming people of different races, faiths, abilities, or dealing on a daily basis with each other.
- We will extend this respect to the environment and all living creatures.

Outdoor Environment

Research shows that school grounds have a significant effect on children. The land is the one external environment to which all children have regular access, they provide the only regular experience of the outdoors. They may provide unique experiences, opportunities and resources for teaching and learning in a safe and supervised external environment. We aim for our grounds to be a stimulating and enjoyable place for work and play.

We believe that the outdoor environment provides the following benefits:

- Enriches all areas of the curriculum, by providing a unique and varied context for learning; Stimulates motivation and curiosity, encourage creativity and help pupils to develop a broad range of skills, competencies, knowledge and understanding;
- Affords opportunities for pupils to work together with adults for the common good, thus encouraging a sense of pride, ownership and responsibility.

The school has planted trees and we have areas set aside to wildlife and planting and growing food for the kitchen garden.

Equal Opportunities and Additional Educational Needs Statement

By using learning strategies that enable the children to make use of all their senses, we can appeal to all learning styles. It is easier to remember what you have heard, seen, touched, tasted and smelled. The outdoor environment enables teachers to make learning as practical and 'hands on' as possible.

The land has tarmacked paths that are wheelchair useable.

All teachers will differentiate their teaching to meet the individual needs of the child.

Health and Safety

All activities will be conducted in accordance with the current Health and Safety Policy. For further information, please see Health and Safety Policy.

Issue date

This policy takes effect from the May 2009

Review date

This policy will be reviewed and revised by the school manager on an annual basis.

Endorsement

Full endorsement to this policy is given by:

Name: Mr Martin Taylor

Position: Iona School Trustee

Signed: 

Date: 07/08/2018

Iona School & Nursery